

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Board of Directors – Wheat Belt PPD**  
**July 28, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wheat Belt Public Power District was held July 28, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. the District Headquarters at 11306 Road 32, Sidney Nebraska, pursuant to written notice to each of the Directors and publication in the Sidney Sun-Telegraph, Legal Notice #L23-464, on July 20, 2023. The agenda was emailed to the directors, posted in the lobby and board room at Wheat Belt’s headquarters, and the availability of the agenda at the District office was part of legal notice.

Directors present at the meeting:

Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Stuart Morgan	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Collin Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present

Employees present at times throughout the meeting: Lacey Gulbranson, Rollie Waite, Jim Weeda, Sharrell Keane, Mark Cape, Nick Brauer, Kurt Cleveland, and Kelli Chaon.

Attorney: Kendra Strommen present

Guests present: Lisa Tiffin, Tri-State from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by board President Brian Zimmerman, who noted the posting of a copy of the Open Meetings Law in the boardroom and who established a quorum was present. Sharrell Keane recorded minutes at the request of Board Secretary Moe Moffat.

**Introduction of Guests –**

- Lisa Tiffin, Tri-State will attend at 10:00 a.m.

**Public Comment Period**

8:35 a.m. No comments were received.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Moffat moved to approve the consent agenda containing the following items:

- Item 1: Approval of the agenda
- Item 2: Legal Notices
  - Waive the reading of the Regular Board Meeting Notice July 28, 2023
- Item 3: Approve the Board Meeting Minutes of the Previous Meeting
  - June 23, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Minutes**

**July 28, 2023**

The motion was seconded by Eckhardt, and roll call vote with Directors voting as follows:

Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Collin Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

**Secondary Underground Replacement**

Gulbranson presented additional details on the secondary underground options that were discussed in the June 2023 board meeting. This was followed by a lengthy discussion by the board and direction to Gulbranson to bring back additional information to the August board meeting.

**Policy Review**

Policy C-25 changes were tabled for further discussion in the August board meeting.

**Board Education**

Chaon and Brauer presented an overview of Payment Processing

The board took a break from 9:34 a.m. to 9:44 a.m.

**Safety Issues and Safety Meeting**

Cape updated the board regarding the July Safety meeting. A discussion was had regarding the attendance of the board members at the monthly safety meeting and the benefits it provides for awareness, getting to know the individuals and overall positive morale for the employees.

**Department Reports**

Engineering – Reviewed by Mark Cape

Operations – Reviewed by Rollie Waite

**Executive Session –**

Due to the sensitive nature, Milanuk moved to enter executive session to discuss a confidential rate presentation provided by Tri-State, Tri-State Federal Funding, FERC Contract Termination, Contract Buy Down Pricing, and Formulary rate. Eckhardt seconded followed by roll call vote with voting as follows.

**Meeting Minutes**

**July 28, 2023**

Collin Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

**Executive Session:**

The board entered Executive session at 10:02 a.m., Gulbranson and Strommen were asked to stay. They were joined by Tri-State representative Lisa Tiffin.

Moffat made a motion to end the executive session at 11:40 p.m.; Anderson seconded. Roll call voting by the directors as follows:

Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Collin Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

**Department Reports - Continued**

IT & Metering – Reviewed by Jim Weeda

Corporate Services and Financials– Reviewed by Sharrell Keane

- Eckhardt made a motion to approve a large budget exception for accumulating truck repairs in the amount of \$15,000.00. This will take the approved large budget from \$35,000 to \$50,000. Moffat seconded followed by roll call vote with voting as follows:

Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Collin Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

**Meeting Minutes**

July 28, 2023

- Brauer presented the new Statement of Cash Flow and provided an overview of how the new document was created.

**Public Comment Period**

11:30 a.m. No comments were received.

The board took a break for lunch at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

**General Manager’s Report**

Gulbranson reviewed her report focusing on the following items as outlined in the board book:

- Summary of Operations
- Federated Claims – Active
- Four Year Work Plan
- Cost Of Service Study
- Industrial Loads
- Sidney Solar Project
- Travel

**Power Supply Report**

The board documents provided by Morgan prior to the meeting were reviewed.

**Federal Funding**

A motion was made by Milanuk to provide a letter of support for Tri-State Federal Funding Grant. Moffat seconded followed by roll call vote with voting as follows.

Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Collin Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

**Strategic Plan Update**

Gulbranson reviewed the Customer Experience Committee minutes as provided in the board book.

**Meeting reports**

Gulbranson indicated that there was no further meeting information to report outside of what was contained in her board report.

**Meeting Minutes**

**July 28, 2023**

**Future Meetings and Trainings**

The calendar and meeting materials provided within the board packet were discussed. Milanuk provided an overview of the agenda for the upcoming NREA meeting to be held in Scottsbluff on August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Blomenkamp reminded board members that the Regional Meetings registration is open now for the Region 7 and 9 NRECA event being held on September 26 – 28<sup>th</sup> in Omaha.

**Delegations/Organizational Items**

A motion was made by Moffat to nominate Marcus Milanuk for the NREA Statewide Services Committee. Motion was seconded by Blomenkamp and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Collin Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

**Other Business**

Zimmerman congratulated and presented Jennifer Eckhardt with her certificate of completion for the “Credentials for Cooperative Director Program”.

The next regular board meeting is Friday, August 25, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Wheat Belt office.

**Adjournment**

With no further business, Zimmerman moved for adjournment at 1:15 p.m.

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Zimmerman, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Moffat, Secretary